

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed February 18, 2009 claims 2, 5, 17, 20, and 25 were rejected for being indefinite. These claims were amended to overcome the rejection by removing the phrase “including but not limited to.”

Claims 1-5, 8, 13, 16-20, 23, and 26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kedda, USP 4,222,759 in view of Gurta, USP 3,912,534. To overcome this rejection, independent claims 1 and 16 were amended. Claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claims 8 and 13, and claims 8 and 13 were canceled. The claim 8 limitation relates to the stacking of two or more pieces of laminated glass. The claim 13 limitation relates to a glass product that has a pattern corresponding to cracks present in the laminated glass prior to heating. Claim 16 was amended to include the limitation of claim 26, and claim 26 was canceled. Similar to claim 13, claim 26 relates to a glass product that has a pattern corresponding to cracks present in the laminated glass prior to heating.

Independent claims 1 and 16 (as amended) require stacking two or more pieces of laminated glass. Each piece of laminated glass consists of two layers of glass held together by a plastic interlayer. Thus, a stack of two pieces of laminated glass consists of four layers of glass. Kedda teaches a method of making a glass product which only requires two layers of glass. In the present invention at least four layers of glass are required, because two or more pieces of laminated glass are stacked. Example 1 of the present invention demonstrates that if only one piece of laminated glass (two layers of glass) is used, then grooves will extend all the way through the product, which is undesirable. Example 2 demonstrates that when two pieces of laminated glass (four layers of glass) are stacked, then the grooves in the top surface do not extend through the product as occurred in Example 1.

The detailed description of the present invention also discusses the importance of stacking two or more pieces of laminated glass (equal to four or more layers of glass): “Stacking and heating two or more pieces together provides a unique feature compared to if only one piece

was processed. The cracks in a single piece extend through the piece, but when two or more pieces are stacked together, the cracks only extend through the entire stack where the cracks in each piece overlap. Because each piece has a different random pattern of cracks, the overlap of cracks between the pieces is limited. Stacking two or more pieces and limiting the overlap of cracks between the pieces, reduces the amount of glass flow needed during the fusing process to produce a continuous glass product.”

Kedda does not teach that four layers of glass (two layers of laminated glass) are required as discussed above in the present invention. Processing two layers of cracked glass (one layer of laminated glass) by the method of Kedda will produce undesirable results, as discussed in example 1 of the present invention.

Gurta teaches a method of processing laminated glass into crushed cullet, which can then be used as raw material in another process to produce a glass product. The present invention involves processing laminated glass directly into a glass product. The crushed cullet from Gurta's process can not be used as raw material in the present invention, because the glass has been crushed and the plastic interlayer removed. The objective of Gurta's method is to crush the glass and remove it from the plastic interlayer. In the present invention the laminated glass is cracked, but crushing is not desired. The detailed description of the present invention states that “the cracking method minimizes crushing of the glass, and maximizes the amount of glass that remains bonded to the plastic interlayer.” Therefore, Gurta teaches away from the present invention. The crushed cullet from Gurta's process can not be used as raw material in Kedda's method to produce the glass products of the present invention. It would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to arrive at the present invention from the teaching of Gurta combined with the method of Kedda.

In addition, the present invention produces a glass product that has a pattern corresponding to cracks present in the laminated glass prior to heating (amended claims 1 and 16). Combining the methods of Gurta and Kedda will not result in a similar cracked pattern in the glass product produced by the present invention. The plastic interlayer in the present

invention is required to hold the cracked pieces of glass together until the interlayer is burned out. The cracked pieces of glass then fuse together with additional heating, and a pattern results in the glass product corresponding to the cracks present prior to heating.

The applicant therefore believes that amended claims 1 and 16 are now in condition for allowance, and that the remaining objections of the examiner have been overcome.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and therefore requests reconsideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MJ Haun", written in a cursive style.

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